

Linn County REAP Committee Five-Year Plan - Revised 1996

"The duties of the county resource enhancement committee are to coordinate the resource enhancement program, plans and proposed projects developed by cities, county conservation board, and soil and water conservation district commissioners for funding under Section 455A.19. Each county committee shall propose a five-year program plan which includes a one-year proposed expenditure plan and submit it to the department." (Paragraph 2, Section 7, REAP, 455A Code of Iowa.)

The Linn County REAP Five-Year Plan is guided by three documents: (1) The Iowa Open Spaces Plan; (2) Iowa State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); and (3) goals and objectives of the member organizations of Linn County REAP.

Linn County REAP Committee Goals

1. Assist and coordinate county groups and organizations with their plans for outdoor recreation and conservation projects (SCORP 1.B).
2. Continue coordination with state and federal agencies in providing resource protection and outdoor recreation (SCORP 1, D and E).
3. Acquire, protect and develop open space properties as identified by priority (Open Space III).
4. Prepare and conduct new environmental education and awareness programs (Open Space 1).
5. Support increased levels of funding from existing sources and seek new funding areas (SCORP 11.B).
6. Continue participation in regional and state REAP activities (SCORP 1.A).
7. Inform legislators of outdoor recreation and environmental needs and recommend legislative action (SCORP 11.C).

Linn County REAP Membership Goals

GRANT WOOD AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

The purpose of the Iowa Rivers Project is to focus the attention of students on a local river or stream through an interdisciplinary investigation. The project involves all disciplines of learning in these investigations. Not only do students monitor the quality of the water, but they also investigate the history, culture and careers in the area, doing creative writing about the waterway.

Through the electronic sharing of information resulting from the investigations between project sites (schools across Iowa), students will gain an understanding of the heritage, resources and problems associated with these waterways. As a result, they become actively involved in helping assure the quality of the waterway and of the life of the associated human population.

IOWA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

GOAL: To save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of Iowa; its waters, air, forests, wildlife, and its soil and minerals.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Develop and implement an education program based upon scientific, legal and technical study. Research to advance conservation, restoration, wise use and scientific management of the wildlife and other natural resources of Iowa.
- B. Educate the people of Iowa through the dissemination of pertinent facts and information that may contribute to the solution of problems involved in the conservation, restoration, wise use and scientific management of the natural resources of Iowa.
- C. Work for the improvement and protection of the quality of the environment throughout Iowa.
- D. Work with all agencies, societies, clubs, organizations and individuals which are, or should be, interested in the restoration, wise use, conservation and scientific management of the natural resources of Iowa.
- E. Cooperate with other conservation and wildlife organizations to promote improved educational methods by encouraging the training of teachers, development of environmental curriculum, providing educational materials regarding the conservation, restoration, wise use and scientific management of the natural resources of Iowa.

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER

MISSION: To foster an appreciation of nature through environmental education and to provide a natural facility for education and nonobtrusive recreation.

GOALS: Continue ecological restoration of Bena farm, pay off land contract, complete trails and open the land to the public. Continue educational programming.

IOWA TRAILS COUNCIL

MISSION: The acquisition, development and promotion of trails in Iowa.

GOALS: To coordinate the goals of the ITC with those of the Linn County REAP program.

LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

A citizenry whose lives are enhanced by participation in nature - conservation and recreational activities.

GOAL: Provide areas, facilities, programs, and services which will offer citizens a variety of opportunities to experience recreational activities.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Carry out presently funded capital improvements.
 - a) Depot Renovation - C.V. Trail in Center Point
 - b) Trail Relocation/Improvement - Squaw Creek Park
 - c) Shower Facilities, Flying Squirrel Campground - Pinicon Ridge park
 - d) Parking area/access - Hitaga Sand Ridge Prairie Preserve
 - e) Water System for Arboretum - Morgan Creek Park
 - f) River access/boat ramp - Troy Mills Access
 - g) Trail Footbridge, Webbs to riverside - Pinicon ridge Park
 - h) Trail footbridge, Riverside - Pinicon Ridge Park
 - i) Campground relocation/expansion - Pinicon Ridge park
 - j) Water Supply near Robins - C.V. Trail
 - k) Campground Renovation - Squaw Creek Park
 - l) Observation Tower Renovation - Pinicon Ridge park
 - m) Native American Trail - Wickiup hill Outdoor learning Area
 - n) Boat Ramp Replacement - Pinicon ridge Park
 - o) Red Oak Lodge Replacement/Relocation - Matsell

2. Carry out capital improvements contained in the Conservation board's 5-year plan subject to availability of funds.
 - a) Continue to seek off-budget or supplemental funds from the board of Supervisors together with other potential funding sources such as:
 - 1) Conservation Foundations (Private Sources)
 - 2) REAP Program
 - 3) ISTEPA Program
 - 4) State and Federal Grants
 - b) Seek a more stable source of funding specifically designed for the capital improvements program.
 - c) Continue to utilize Capital Improvement program funds from Board of Supervisors.
3. Cedar River Greenbelt - Expand area and facilities for public use.
 - a) Trailhead facility
 - b) Trails
 - c) Interpretive displays
 - d) Native American Village
 - e) Public use Area (Educational Campground)
 - f) River Access points

GOAL: Provide opportunities through a structured Conservation Education program to help people to gain a sense of awareness, appreciation, and understanding of air, land, water, and living things in a natural setting.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Continue to develop the outdoor learning area in the Cedar River Greenbelt.
 - a) Work in partnership with the Friends of the Linn County Conservation Board organization to raise funds to accomplish outdoor learning area.
2. Master Conservationist Program - Assist in writing grants and being a partner with other groups and agencies to offer the conservationist course (or similar program) to local school teachers.
3. Continue to work toward the conservation Board's long range conservation education plan.
4. Connections Program - Continue to work with the Linn County Environmental Council to deliver this program.
5. Continue to conduct archeological field studies in cooperation with the University of Iowa in exploring Native American sites in the Cedar River Greenbelt.

GOAL: Make land and water areas available so citizens can experience the intangible aspects of nature in an aesthetic sense.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Continue to acquire and develop areas such as the Cedar River Greenbelt for user enjoyment.
2. Develop County Conservation areas in accordance with adopted master/management plans.
3. Continue to partner with cities and other agencies and private organizations to provide a system of interconnecting trails for outdoor pursuits and enjoyment.

GOAL: Acquire and manage land and water areas to conserve, protect and utilize our natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Add acreage to existing areas for intensive recreational usage, wildlife habitat improvement, and for preserving natural resources subject to availability of lands and funding.
 - a) Cedar River Greenbelt - Corridor of public and private properties along the Cedar River.
 - b) Squaw Creek Greenbelt - Corridor of public and private properties along Squaw Creek that will link with the Indian Creek greenbelt corridor. This corridor also has the potential to extend north from Squaw Creek Park into the city of Marion.
 - c) Other areas identified as part of the conservation Board's long range land acquisition program.
2. Acquire unique natural areas which contain rare and endangered plant or animal life or unique geological features as available funding resources allow. Refer to the conservation Board's long range land acquisition program.

LINN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MISSION: To prepare comprehensive plans to help guide orderly growth and development within the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area.

GOALS: None specifically related to REAP goals.

MARION PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MISSION: To provide programs and maintain facilities for the relaxation, recreation and/or benefit of the citizens of Marion and surrounding communities.

GOALS:

1. Provide park areas with adequate and reasonable access to all neighborhoods of the city.
2. Assure adequate maintenance, repair and replacement of department facilities and equipment and update/upgrade in order to comply with local, state and federal laws or guidelines.
3. Pursue additional funding resources for outdoor recreation alternatives.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

SOIL RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE 1 ASSIST LANDOWNERS IN PROTECTING CROPLAND FROM EROSION IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

GOALS AND ACTIONS

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| A. Assist producers in maintaining FSA plans. | Erosion Control |
| B. Promote treatment of non-highly erodible fields for erosion control to T level. | |
| C. Plan and implement cost effective whole farm conservation plans in cooperation with others. | Erosion Control |
| 1. Promote conservation tillage, no-till, ridge-till. | |
| a. Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show | |
| b. Major Bus Tour | |

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|---|-----------------|
| D. Provide technical assistance | Erosion Control |
| E. Provide cost share | Erosion Control |
| 1. Update priorities annually | |
| F. Promote sustainable agriculture, soil tilth, soil biology and economics of treatment measures. | |
| 1. Field demonstrations | |
| 2. Integrated Farm Management Program | |
| 3. Cooperate with Kirkwood, ISU Extension, farm organizations, farm suppliers | |
| 4. Sponsor informational meetings | |
| 5. Promote the MAX program | |
| G. Provide assistance in planning and applying conservation practices on former CRP land. | |

WATER RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE II TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER IN BOTH RURAL AND DEVELOPING AREAS

GOALS AND ACTIONS

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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|---|----------------------------|
| A. Develop working relationships with organizations and units of government to form an Urban Resources Partnership | Urban and Non-Agricultural |
| 1. Cooperate with Linn County REAP and other city and county agencies and organizations for Urban Resources Partnership projects. | |
| 2. Assist Linn County Building and Zoning with plat reviews and planning for erosion, sediment control | |
| 3. Assist Linn County Road Department with roadside management program | |
| 4. Assist cities in Cedar Rapids Metro Area in establishing erosion, sediment control ordinances. | |
| 5. Plan and conduct seminars to train homebuilders, consulting engineers and contractors in urban erosion and sediment control. | |
| 6. Assist urban and suburban landusers with consultive assistance for soil and water problems. | |
| 7. Carry out the Cedar Rapids Area Urban Water Quality Project | |

- B. Coordinate and provide technical assistance for state and federal water quality programs for farmland
1. Manure management

Water Quality

RECREATION/WILDLIFE/FORESTRY RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE III ASSIST LANDUSERS IN MANAGING LAND FOR RECREATION, WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY WITH COST EFFECTIVE, WHOLEFARM CONSERVATION PLANS AND PASTURELAND

GOALS AND ACTIONS

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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|---|-----------------------------|
| A. Restore and improve wetlands | Woodland, Wildlife, Pasture |
| 1. Assist landowners in improving wetlands for wildlife | |
| 2. Promote and assist with USDA wetland programs | |
| a. Emergency Wetland Program | |
| b. Emergency Wetland Reserve Program | |
| B. Promote wildlife conservation | Woodland, Wildlife, Pasture |
| 1. Cooperate with Pheasants Forever for more food plots and winter cover. | |
| 2. Assist landusers in planning wildlife plantings | |
| 3. Administer the Slough Bill tax exemption Program | |
| 4. Support the Conservation Reserve Program | |
| C. Promote tree planting and woodland management | Woodland, Wildlife, Pasture |
| 1. Work to insure adequate forestry assistance from DNR | |
| 2. Sell trees and shrubs at reasonable prices. | |
| 3. Promote and coordinate state and federal tree planting programs. | |
| 4. Refer landusers to district forester for better woodland management | |
| 5. Cooperate with Trees Forever Organizations on plantings | |

- D. Promote improvement and protection of pasture land
1. Promote and coordinate use of no-till drill for seedings
 2. Conduct demonstrations of pasture planting and interseeding
 3. Promote use of warm season grasses for summer grazing
 4. Assist in coordinating control of multiflora rose in pastures

Woodland, Wildlife,
Pastures

LAND MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE IV COORDINATE WITH OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR WISE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

GOALS AND ACTIONS

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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|---|----------------------------|
| A. Coordinate with Linn County Regional Planning on land use planning and growth management | Urban and Non-Agriculture |
| B. Coordinate with Linn County Zoning Commission <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serve on technical review committee to review rezoning and platting requests. | Urban and Non-Agriculture |
| C. Support better solid waste management <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide assistance to Linn County in landfill site selection | Urban and Non-Agriculture |
| D. Promote treatment of land to T level soil loss <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote legislation of conservation credit law | Urban and Non-Agriculture |
| E. Maintain close contact with state and national legislators regarding needs for law changes, etc. | Urban and Non-Agriculture |
| F. Use volunteers to carry out as much work as possible. | Urban and Non-Agriculture |
| G. Coordinate with Linn County Resource Enhancement and Protection Committee and its representatives for one or more special projects. | Urban and Non-Agricultural |
| H. Obtain grants for needed projects | Urban and Non-Agricultural |

PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION

OBJECTIVE V PROMOTE AND CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

GOALS AND ACTIONS

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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|---|-------------------------------|
| <p>A. Educate farm and non-farm community</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Coordinate a Farm-City Relations Program to recognize farmers and their role in society and to improve urban resident's understanding of soil and water conservation.2. Promote sustainable agriculture, soil tilth, soil biology and economics of treatment measures.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Field demonstrationsb. Integrated Farm Management Programc. Cooperate with Kirkwood, ISU Extension, farm organizations, farm suppliersd. Informational meetings and programs for groupse. Promote the MAX program for maximum cropping efficiencyf. Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show3. Improve publicity program by increasing use of newspaper, radio and television. | <p>Conservation Education</p> |
| <p>B. Promote and teach wise use of our natural resources at the school age level</p> | <p>Conservation Education</p> |

SIERRA CLUB, CEDAR-WAPSIE GROUP

GOALS:

1. Explore and enjoy our natural environment by scheduling, promoting and participating in outings and activities.
2. Work to protect our environment and preserve our natural resources by promoting sustainable development.

This goal will be accomplished by:

- A. Advocating the protection of natural open spaces and unique habitats for county/city government entities.
 - B. Working with county officials to study water quality issues in watersheds of the city and region.
 - C. Continuing to work to restore the roadside prairie at the corner of Center Point Road and County Home Road.
 - D. Promote environmentally friendly lifestyles such as recycling, energy efficiency, etc.
3. Engage in political and legislative action.

This goal will be accomplished by:

- A. Working to elect officials who will ensure that every person enjoys the benefits of clean air, clean water and a healthy environment.
- B. Encouraging zoning policies that protect diverse habitats and wildlife resources.
- C. Advocate legislative action to meet the need for alternative energy sources and conserving the energy we now use.
- D. Organize letter writing campaigns to support environmentally sound legislation.

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NATURAL RESOURCES